

REMARKS

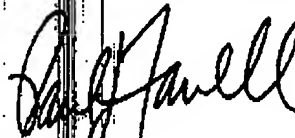
Claims 1-14 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 8 being the independent Claims. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,875) in view of Kato (U.S. Pat. No. 4,491,702). Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma in view of Kimura and Kato and further in view of Johnson (U.S. Pat. No. 3,979,568). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma in view of Kimura and Kato and further in view of Daneshvar (U.S. Pat. No. 5,374,018). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma in view of Kato and further in view of Novak (U.S. Pat. No. 4,636,593). Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Kato and Novak and further in view of Johnson. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma in view of Kato and Novak and further in view of Daneshvar. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Kato and Novak. Claims 5 and 11 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of objected to Claims 4 and 5. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the elements of objected to Claims 10 and 11.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, it is believed that amended Claims 1 and 8 are now in condition for allowance, and the application as a whole, containing Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12-13, is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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